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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/315,806	05/21/1999	MARTIN M. DENEROFF	15-4-737.00	6955

7590 05/08/2002

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EXAMINER

MYERS, PAUL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2181

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/315,806

Applicant(s)

DENEROFF ET AL.

Examiner

Paul R. Myers

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The amendment appears to be an honest attempt to amend over the clearly anticipated 102 rejection, as such, while the added feature is inherent in any interface, the examiner is including a reference that teaches enabling switches in an interface to establish connection to a bus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amini et al PN 5,396,602 in view of Trantanella PN 3,470,542.

In regards to claims 1 and 11: Amini et al teaches receiving a bus request (REQ); selecting the request according to a priority associated with the request (Abstract); generating a control signal in response to selection of the request (GNT); and enabling access to the bus in response to the control signal (Abstract). Amini et al does not expressly teach this enabling including switching the requesting devices into electrical connection with the bus. Although the examiner does not know of any interface that doesn't use switches (generally tri-state) connect to

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the bus. Trantanella expressly teaches an interface unit including switches that are enabled to provide access to a bus in response to a control signal (Figure 3). It would have been obvious to use switches to connect the requesting device to the bus because this would have prevented signal contention by having all devices directly connected to the bus without any I/O buffers.

In regards to claims 2 and 15: Amini et al teaches the bus being PCI.

In regards to claims 3, 16 and 20: Amini et al teaches the well known standard centralized PCI bus arbitration claimed above. Amini et al however teaches the older PCI standard of 33 Mhz and not the newer 66 or 100 Mhz PCI bus standards. Official notice is taken that the 66 Mhz PCI and 100 Mhz PCI bus standards are very common in the art. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the well known standard arbitration method described by Amini et al comply with 66 Mhz and 100 Mhz PCI buses because this would have prevented the arbitration method of Amini et al from becoming out of date.

In regards to claims 4, 13 and 18: Amini et al teaches the requests coming from devices requiring use of the bus.

In regards to claims 5-7 and 14: Amini et al teaches arbitrating between a plurality of requests and granting in order.

In regards to claims 8, 10, 17 and 19: Both Amini et al and Trantanella teach disabling output of one device so another can access the bus.

In regards to claims 9 and 12: Amini et al teaches a limited number of requesters.

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Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

PN 6,330,656 to Bealkowski et al and PN 6,338,107 to Neal et al both teach additional switched beyond the output buffer switches of an interface.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul R. Myers whose telephone number is 703 305 9656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Wong can be reached on 703 305 3477. The fax phone numbers for the

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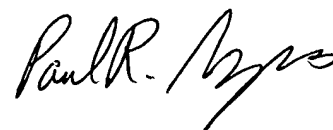
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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 746 7239 for regular communications and 703 746 7239 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 305 3900.

PRM

May 6, 2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Myers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" at the end.

**PAUL R. MYERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER**